

COUNCIL OF ANGLICAN PROVINCES OF AFRICA – CAPA
CONSEIL DES PROVINCES ANGLICANES D’AFRIQUE
ANGLICAN COMMUNION

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International Day of Peace

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace of Christ be with you and all of yours,

We come to you as we join the world to mark the International Day of Peace.

This year, we cannot help but reflect on the one unique event that has reawakened the world to the truth of our interdependence and connectedness as we focus on our efforts against the common enemy - COVID-19. The pandemic has thrown our world into turmoil and forcefully reminded us that what happens in one part of the planet impacts people everywhere. Hence the theme for this year's International Peace Day – “Shaping Peace Together”.

In our context, the Africa Anglican Communion have modelled a church that identifies with the long history of struggles. We have accompanied and modelled peaceful relations through promoting truth telling, reconciliation and forgiveness. We have modelled a Church, that in addition, to opening the eyes of God's people, also invites them to a critical understanding of how important it is to acknowledge past lessons and struggles and still create safe space for sustained peace and security. We have invited nations and God's people to participate in changing the world and creating hope in anticipation of the new reign of the Kingdom of God among the poor and excluded in our present society; people forced to migrate across perilous waters; people displaced from their land by extractive industries or foreign commercial farmers and land mines or landslides, floods or famine due to climate change.

For Africa, peace is beyond the civil; it is beyond the natural calamities that have continually threatened our food sources, it is beyond the scramble for our natural resources and the poor governance across the continent. Peace in Africa is being able to sit together and share a meal, it is the joy-filled laughter as we tell our stories, it is being able to go out and enjoy nature, all of which have been under threat in the recent past.

“Shaping Peace Together” is best exemplified in the African Philosophy of Ubuntu – “I am because you are” and the Harambee philosophy that emphasizes on pulling together. Sadly, practical living out of these two philosophies have been affected by the COVID 19 pandemic. With most livelihoods lost, we have witnessed a strain in family relations; several cases of domestic and gender-based violence, abuse of children, rape and killing of innocent young girls, rise in the incidence of teenage pregnancies and drug abuse have been reported. Mental health issues brought about by lack of basic needs have also been a major concern with increased cases of suicide.

As the body of Christ, it is our duty to speak hope where there is hopelessness, spread peace where there is worry and anxiety. It is our duty to shape peace together and influence those around us to do the same.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Matthew 5:9

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That is why today, the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA) calls on you to be an instrument of peace in your own unique way, as simple as it may be, that we may be able to “shape peace together” today, tomorrow and as long as we live.

Pray the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi to always remind yourself that God calls you to be an instrument of Peace.

Prayer of St Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Happy International Peace Day.

Sincerely yours,



VEN. J.W.K. deGRAFT-JOHNSON
GENERAL SECRETARY

Releasing Our Potential to Realize Our Possibilities